

### **Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A bait container comprising:

a housing defining an access opening, a central axis, and a chamber to accommodate water and bait therein;

a carriage located within the housing, the carriage defining at least one perforation to allow the passage of water therethrough;

a post extending from the carriage substantially parallel to ~~along~~ the central axis and movable in a direction substantially parallel to ~~along~~ the central axis, the post defining an elongated slot located substantially parallel to the central axis; and

a door substantially located in a vertical plane parallel to the central axis and comprising a rigid link arranged to travel within the elongated slot and to interact with the post to cause the door to ~~and~~ move in the vertical plane between an open position to expose the access opening and a closed position to at least partially cover the access opening and hinder egress of the bait from the chamber in response to movement of the post in the direction substantially parallel to ~~along~~ the central axis.

2. (Currently amended) The bait container of claim 1, wherein:

~~the post defines an elongated slot~~ is located substantially along the central axis; and

the post extends from the carriage substantially along the central axis and is movable substantially along the central axis

~~the door comprises a rigid link arranged to interact with the elongated slot to cause the door to move in the vertical plane.~~

3. (Original) The bait container of claim 1, further comprising a handle connected to the post and arranged to move the post along the central axis.

4. (Original) The bait container of claim 3, further comprising a locking arrangement for selectively securing the post, thereby maintaining the door in the closed position.

5. (Original) The bait container of claim 4, wherein the locking arrangement comprises a rotatable latch arrangement.

6. (Original) The bait container of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of tracks arranged to guide the door to move in the vertical plane.

7. (Original) The bait container of claim 6, wherein the tracks are formed integrally with the housing.

8. (Original) The bait container of claim 1, wherein the housing defines a lip proximate the access opening to hinder egress of live bait.

9. (Original) The bait container of claim 1, wherein the housing is cylindrical in shape.

10. (Original) The bait container of claim 1, wherein the housing is polyhedral in shape.